

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph at page 16, line 21, through page 17, line 7, with:

The magnetic carrier to be used in the present invention preferably comprises basically a ferromagnetic iron oxide particle and silica to be coated on the ferromagnetic iron oxide particle. As used herein, by "coated" is meant that, a silica layer is formed on the outermost layer of the magnetic carrier, covering the outside of the ferromagnetic iron oxide particle, and is ~~synonymous~~ synonymous with adhesion of silica to the vicinity of the surface of the ferromagnetic iron oxide particle. The silica layer may be formed to completely cover the ferromagnetic iron oxide particle. Alternatively, the ferromagnetic iron oxide particle may be partly exposed, as long as the bindability with silica and a biological substance to be isolated is not inhibited. Only one ferromagnetic iron oxide particle may be coated with silica to give one magnetic carrier, or a flock consisting of 2 to 100 ferromagnetic iron oxide particles may be coated with silica to give one magnetic carrier. The silica in the present invention includes SiO₂ crystal and other forms of silicon oxide molecules, skeleton of *Bacillariophyceae* consisting of SiO₂ and amorphous silicon oxide.